(xviii) 288 stations have been selected as model stations to provide upgraded passenger amenities at stations, which include Automatic Vending Machines, Self Printing Ticket Machines, Pay and Use Toilets, improved Waiting Rooms/Retiring Rooms etc.

Golden Quadrila teral rail network

3457. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways are considering to develop a Golden Quadrilateral rail network, similar to the one being implemented for the highway project;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has finalised the proposal in this regard;

(c) whether the project has been approved by the Ministry of Finance;

(d) if so, what is the total cost involved in the 5,000 kms. project;

(e) whether the three funding agencies, Japan, APB and World Bank, have shown interest in financing the project; and

(f) if so, by when the work on this project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (f) In order to expedite works on High Density Routes, a proposal for strengthening the Golden Quadrilateral and the Diagonals connecting the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai is being developed by the Railways for multilateral funding. This proposal is yet to be sent to Ministry of Finance by the Railways. Some of the funding agencies have expressed interest in rendering assistance in executing the projects. Work is already in progress in some of the sanctioned projects on the Golden Quadrilateral with the resources provided in the Railways' Annual Plan.

Extension of Calcutta Metro Rail Project

3458. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had been having interaction with the West Bengal Government over extension of Calcutta Metro Rail Project, not only on the ongoing project from Tollygunj to Garia, but also on new areas in Howrah and Rajarhat; and